

**Colusa Subreach Planning Project Advisory Workgroup  
Meeting Summary  
February 7, 2005 – Colusa County Farm Bureau  
Final with AW Revisions**

**Summary prepared by Carolyn Penny, Facilitator, Common Ground: Center for  
Cooperative Solutions with assistance from Ellen Gentry, Sacramento River  
Conservation Area Forum**

**Present:**

AW: Burt Bundy, Ben Carter, Michael Fehling, Jay Dee Garr, Armand Gonzales, Francis Hickle, Pat Kittle, Ray Krause, Dan Obermeyer, John Rogers, Jeff Sutton, Jon Wrysinski, and Dawit Zeleke.

Alternates: Woody Elliott (Alternate for Michael Fehling), Joan Phillipe (Alternate for John Rogers), Ron Withrow (Alternate for John Garner)

Staff: Facilitator Carolyn Penny, Project Manager Gregg Werner, Greg Golet (TNC)

Guests: Beverly Anderson-Abbs, Michelle Baker (Common Ground), Ellen Gentry (SRCAF), Ryan Luster (TNC), Dee Ohliger, Bruce Ross (DWR).

**Agenda:**

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Approximate Start Time</u>	<u>Lead Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
1.	10:00	Carolyn Penny, Facilitator	Welcome, Introductions, January Meeting Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions. Approve agenda. Approve Jan. summary.</li> </ul>
2.	10:10	Bruce Ross, Department of Water Resources	Briefing on Boat Ramp Study Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand results from boat ramp study and discuss application to AW work.</li> </ul>
3.	10:40	Gregg Werner, All	Discussion of 4 Specific Restoration Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify questions and concerns to inform baseline analyses and other research topics.</li> </ul>
4.	11:40	Public	Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive comment from the public.</li> </ul>
5.	11:50	All	Lunch and Break	
6.	12:15	Greg Golet, TNC	Overview of State of Data on Threatened and Endangered Species in Colusa Subreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and discuss the state of data including gaps and the state of the SRCAF GIS.</li> </ul>
7.	1:00	Gregg Werner, All	February Public Meeting and March Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guide preparation and focus for public meeting and workshop.</li> </ul>

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8.	1:15	Gregg Werner, All	Resources for AW-Identified Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand available resources for AW-identified studies.</li></ul>
9.	1:30	Gregg Werner, All	Briefing on Subreach Background Report and Cultural Resources Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand materials from reports, provide advisory comments, and discuss application to AW work.</li></ul>
10.	1:50	Carolyn Penny, All	March Agenda and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shape March agenda and articulate interim steps.</li></ul>
11.	2:00	Carolyn Penny	Adjourn	

### Agenda Review and Introductions

The meeting notes for the January 3, 2005 meeting were accepted as written.

Inquiries were made regarding available maps detailing the control of the Subreach (see Handbook pages 13, 16, and 18). Requested for meetings were: 1) a color wall map, 2) an enlarged Table (from Handbook page 12), and 3) an enlarged mission statement. It was also suggested that the CSP mission statement accompany general communications and final versions where referenced (i.e., newsletter). Gregg pointed out that in the final report color maps would be included and distributed to the AW.

### Colusa Boat Ramp Study

Bruce Ross, DWR, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the replacement of the Colusa Park boat ramp. Koll Buer, retired DWR, provided the preliminary investigation including the Colusa State Park area. The slides show river migration from 1896 to 1998, away from the existing ramp. The water source for Robert's Ditch also comes from the existing ramp area with a removable fish screen further up the channel. In looking at GIS layers that include river geomorphology, river meander, public land ownership, levy location, and existing riprap, it was determined that the best location for a new boat ramp was on the levee near the mouth of the current boat ramp access.

Jon Wrynski announced the Colusa Boat Ramp Committee is meeting Wednesday. Discussion ensued regarding the infrastructure of the state park, pumping plant velocity and sediment, screening, and the tie-in to CSP Restoration Sites and later opportunities to facilitate and assist the boat ramp. It was noted that Denny Bungarz chairs the SRCAF Public Use Committee, which will address county boat ramp maintenance and permitting. It was also noted that public access and recreation language may be a tie-in through the SRCAF for possible partnerships for maintenance and permits.

Ben reiterated the mission of the SRCAF is to facilitate communication and coordinate activities along the river so that they are working in harmony. Ben encouraged anyone with ideas, questions, or concerns to talk with him or Burt.

### **Discussion of Specific Restoration Sites**

The four sites from the previous meeting were reviewed (Womble, Jensen, Stegeman, and 1000 Acre Ranch). It was noted that all eight restoration sites will be revisited prior to making any final decisions. The following four sites were discussed:

Boeger, below Hamilton Bend and three miles north of Colusa, is owned by TNC since being purchased from the family in 2002. It is located entirely inside the levee abutting the river, with an easement access across the river road for management purposes only. There is no landside public access. It has 129 acres; 74 acres natural vegetation, 55 restoration acres (row crops).

Discussion included the following points:

- Who is property owner of walnut orchard to south? Martin
- The part of this property that is close to levee has lower elevation and sycamores. The row crops are in a high terrace area that floods less frequently.
- Is there someone pumping irrigation water on site? No – Abandoned well.
- What is proposed restoration of the 55 acres? Don't know until after baseline – guess some riparian forest
- Currently, less concern for this piece since no adjacent agriculture
- Look at hydraulic analysis – flood flows, etc. – for this property. That hydraulic analysis will help determine type of restoration
- When thinking of restoration planning for this property, keep in mind protection of levee on other side of the river.
- Recreation and access from river side – DFG signs would be a benefit regarding boundaries.

Colusa-North, surrounded by natural riparian vegetation with a slough along the SW border, is managed and owned by the California Dept. of Fish and Game. There is no landside public access, only a private agricultural easement. It does have a big, broad, growing sandbar with access from the river. It is 118 acres; 113 in natural habitat, 5 restoration acres (abandoned walnut orchard).

Discussion included the following points:

- Touches Ward property (See discussion below.)
- Conservation easement on Halsey property to SE in row crops – may be restoration efforts there too
- Soil quality may be poor
- Why spend funds to restore such a small area surrounded by riparian? Some species need the edge.
- Track codling moth concerns for all lands considered for leaving as abandoned walnut orchard

Ward, just north of, and adjoining, the State Recreation Area, meets the Colusa-North site. This property is surrounded by onsite riparian, a levy on the west and row crops on the north. Rip-rap on the north bank was put in during the 1950's, with 1980 additions to keep the river near the mouth of the Colusa Weir. A point bar on the east side is popular with boaters. It is 238 acres; 95 acres natural riparian, 143 restoration acres (row crops), and owned by TNC.

Discussion included the following points:

- Be careful regarding interaction of this property and opening of the Colusa weir
- There's a concern if turn over to state as part of state park
  - Legal parameters
  - Funding for maintenance
- Design/build in recreation possibilities as possible future part of state park  
Examples:
  - Primitive camping sites
  - Trails (pedestrian, horse)But make sure there's long-term funding for maintenance
- Look at rip-rap as part of planning
  - Stays? Goes? Helping? Hurting?
- This piece of property may represent a focal area planning opportunity to examine:
  - Meander analysis
  - Role of rip rap (look at this issue subreach-wide)
  - Incorporating recreation uses
  - Altering topography
  - Cost analysis
  - Interaction with weir

Cruise 'n Tarry, just south of, and adjoining the Colusa Weir, was formerly a marina site. It is 10 acres, bordered by a south levee, residence, and fallow private land. This is not necessarily a property acquired for restoration. It is currently used as a staging area. The parking lot and the south side were deemed good for storage. It is owned by the State Reclamation Board.

Discussion included the following points:

- Consider whether this property represents mitigation possibilities.
- Be careful about restoring habitat on land best used to store materials to strengthen levees

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

### **Overview of State of Data on Threatened and Endangered Species in Colusa Subreach**

Greg Golet, TNC, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the overview of threatened and endangered species in the Colusa Subreach, and GIS information available for the 100 river miles from Red Bluff to Colusa. The ecosystem on the Sacramento River has historically harbored a vast amount of riparian habitat which is important for fish (Chinook salmon, sturgeon, and steelhead trout) and is the single most

important area for songbirds. Other special-status species include: garter snake, western pond turtle and red legged frog. Strategies encompass: 1) acquiring flood prone lands, 2) revegetating land with native trees, shrubs and understory, and 3) recovering species threatened by disruption of natural processes (i.e., cottonwoods). Monitoring suggests that restoration is leading to the recovery of both special-status species (valley elderberry longhorn beetle, yellow billed cuckoo, and bats) and the ecosystem as a whole. Discussion raised concerns as follows:

- Regarding GIS/other data, there's a lack of integration (one-stop shopping) and public access.
- How do we know when we're there in terms of recovery of habitat and/or species?  
Federal recovery plans have more reliable threshold numbers for some species than others.
- Is there someone who knows
  - Where we are now in the Colusa Subreach regarding recovery?
  - Where we need to be in Colusa Subreach regarding recovery?
- Balance T&E species needs with other stakeholder needs.

A suggestion was made that Ayres & Associates attend a future AW meeting to provide an overview of hydraulic modeling approaches. Dawit recommended the AW review [www.sacramentoriverportal.org](http://www.sacramentoriverportal.org) for more information on that subject. The AW agreed to hold the possibility of a presentation by Ayres & Associates for a future meeting.

### **February Public Meeting and March Workshop**

Logistics for the Public Meeting, February 17, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Community Center, in the Colusa Complex, were considered. Materials/equipment and supplies needed:

AW contact list

Visuals for wall

mission statement

ownership maps and target areas for restoration

mitigation statement as part of mission statement (Jeff will email to Ellen)

Podium and microphone

PowerPoint equipment

Double sided handout (including calendar and project schedule provided by Gregg)

Forms for participants to indicate a desire to be part of mailing list and/or survey

The agenda will include:

Welcome/introduction/agenda review

by Ben as landowner representative of SRCAF speaking briefly on CSP and its history.

Project overview, including schedule, sites, work products, and how to stay involved

by Gregg (TNC) and Burt (SRCAF)

Questions/Comments/Concerns

Jeff will act as moderator, restating concerns and calling for AW responses. Carolyn will record.

Wrap-up

by Ben

Configuration:

Carolyn will attend to recording and flip chart information.

Ellen will take notes.

Jeff will talk to Burt regarding videotaping the meeting.

Planning for the March Workshop will be on the March 7 agenda.

**Resources for AW-Identified Studies**

A handout was delivered regarding Focal Area Planning (Task 4) and Landowner Questions (Task 5). Staff time and available funding were reviewed along with looking at the subreach holistically (i.e., third party impacts, hydrology, cumulative impacts, other mechanisms for habitat on private land, contracting with consultants, other public properties, geographic scope and considerations included in this process.)

The running list of possible AW-identified studies with items from January (regular type) and February (italics) are:

- Study whether assessment of habitat and species on public land can be accurately extrapolated to private lands so that bigger picture is achieved while also protecting privacy and property rights
- Geomorphology assessment – subreach-wide
- Quantitative/Qualitative species analysis
- How quickly sites will return to riparian on their own? What conditions dictate successful restoration with minimal intervention?
- Long-term damming effects of habitat restoration on flooding
- *Focal area planning – Ward Property, Cruise-N-Tarry, Colusa-North*
  - *Meander analysis*
  - *Role of rip rap*
  - *Incorporating recreation uses*
  - *Altering topography*
  - *Cost analysis*
  - *Interaction with weir*
- *Rip rap – protecting hard points subreach-wide, cost/benefit at different points*

**March Agenda and Next Steps**

Next Steps include:

- Color wall version (for public meeting too) and individual version of map showing control of parcels (including table p.12 background report) – Gregg for AW by March 7 meeting
- Future Agenda – revisit restoration sites for further comment (hold)
- Future Agenda - DWR presentation on their plans and how their plans interact with restoration sites (hold)
- Presentation by Ayers – examples of possible hydraulic analysis (on hold for future agenda)
- TNC sends link to other subreach hydraulic studies by Gregg by Friday
- Jeff will resend language regarding AW goals to Carolyn for AW review in March

## **Colusa Subreach Planning Project Advisory Workgroup Draft Meeting Summary 2.7.05**

- Any input on the subreach background report is due to Gregg by email by 2/18/05.

March Agenda items will include:

- Reconfirm AW goals language
- Public Meeting Debrief
- AW – identified studies
  - Review list
  - Priorities
  - Scope of work
- Subreach background report/feedback
- Visual tour of facilities and land use, throughout the subreach
- March workshop planning

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 10:00-2:00, at Colusa Farm Bureau.